

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2007

From: Karen McCormick

Subject: Continuation of Action
Central Crude LaFourche Spill
9793 Highway 308, Lockport, LA
Latitude: 29.5898200
Longitude: -90.4435500

POLREP No.:	3	Site #:	NRC 827176
Reporting Period:	2/24/07	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	2/22/2007	Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:	2/22/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	
FPN#	E07607		

Site Description

On February 22, 2007, the National Response Center was notified of an oil spill from a 26,000 barrel above ground storage tank (tank 9195) associated with the Central Crude Valentine Facility adjacent to Bayou Lafourche in Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana (NRC No. 827176). The facility address is 9793 Highway 308, Lockport, Louisiana. The spill was a result of the failure of a four inch flexible hose used to transfer crude oil from the oil storage tank through a pump into a pipeline. The facility operator began transferring oil from tank 9195 at 0130 hours on the morning of 22 February, 2007. The operator discovered spilled oil in tank 9195 secondary containment at 0530 on the same day. Oil from tank 9195 seeped from its secondary containment, into an adjacent tank's secondary containment through a storm water drainage valve. The oil then traveled to the secondary containment storm water discharge valve. The valve was closed, however; the soil surrounding the piping and valve leading from the interior of the secondary containment to an adjacent canal had eroded. This provided the oil a pathway from the secondary containment into the canal. The canal is approximately 400 feet long, and from the entrance of the drainage piping, it flows approximately 150 feet south into Bayou Lafourche. Oil from the facility entered Bayou Lafourche, a tidally influenced, navigable waterway of the United States. The operator terminated transfer of oil through the failed hose and notified the facility manager who activated the facility's response contractor, Environmental Safety and Health, Inc. (ES&H). The operator closed the valve between the secondary containment units, and placed onsite boom across the canal mouth in an attempt to prevent additional oil from reaching the bayou. The facility operator estimates that approximately 1,800 barrels (bbls) of crude oil was discharged through the broken hose, of which 1,600 bbls remained within the secondary containment units, 100 bbls was contained within the canal, and 100 bbls entered Bayou Lafourche. This estimate is greater than the initial estimate of 350 bbls. ES&H personnel arrived at the spill scene on February 22, 2007 at 0900 and initiated containment and recovery activities. The spill impacted the 400 feet of the canal and approximately 1.1 miles of Bayou Lafourche.

Due to the proximity of the spill to the United States Coast Guard MST 3 in Houma, LA and the impact to a navigable waterway, two USCG representatives, Petty Officers Hendry and Ariail, responded to the spill scene at 0830 on 22 February 2007. Upon arrival of EPA representatives, the USCG provided the representatives with a briefing of events and transferred oversight responsibilities to the EPA and departed the spill scene.

Current Activities

On 24 February 2007, EH&S continued recovery of oil from the service canal, AST 9195 secondary containment, and oil containment in Bayou Lafourche. As of the end of 23 February 2007, EH&S personnel have recovered approximately 100 bbls of oil from the service canal utilizing a drum skimmer and vacuum truck. At the completion of activities on 24 February 2007, all of the free oil from the middle of the canal had been removed and only oil within the vegetation and on the canal bank remained. Central Crude flooded AST 9195 secondary containment with water to float the remaining oil to the surface and used an ES&H skimmer and vacuum truck to continue recovery efforts. Central Crude had recovered an additional 200 bbls of oil on 23, February 2007. To date, a total of approximately 1,900 bbls of oil has been recovered from the secondary containment and service canal. ES&H continued to deploy containment and absorbent boom along both the northern and southern banks of Bayou Lafourche. Additional containment and absorbent boom were placed upstream of the spill site to counter 15-25 mph southeast winds which pushed oil upstream. A total of two containment booms and four absorbent booms were placed on the upstream side of the spill. As oiled vegetative material and free oil gathered along the boom, ES&H personnel collected the materials using absorbent pads and skimmer nets. Throughout the day ES&H personnel changed out oil saturated boom along the north and south shorelines, as well as those which crossed the bayou. Oiled material was bagged and placed within a roll-off box. Bayou Lafourche was not able to be reopened to boat traffic, due to oil within the 1.1 mile containment area. Mr. Pat Breaux, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), agreed with the Bayou staying closed for the time being. Volumes of oil recovered on 24 February 2007 will be reported on the morning of 25 February 2007. A total of 8,000 feet of containment boom and approximately 16,000 feet of absorbent boom has been deployed to date.

Planned Removal Actions

RP clean up contractors will continue containment, clean up and recovery operations. Projected completion date has not been established. ES&H plans to use skimming equipment to recover oil in the bayou on 25 February 2007. ES&H will mobilize additional oil recovery and containment equipment to the site as necessary, and plan to reopen Bayou Lafourche once threat has been mitigated.

Next Steps

EPA representatives will return to the site on 25 February 2007 to document response activities and communicate that information to the OSC.

Key Issues

- Spill affected Bayou Lafourche a tidally influenced navigable waterway of the US.
- Shorelines of the bayou are comprised of cord grass and reeds making recovery of oil from the vegetated areas difficult.
- Significant boat operations will be necessary for recovery.

- The bayou has been closed to recreational and commercial boat traffic.
- Potential for impact to wildlife.

www.epaosc.org/centralcrude